

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8694

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 3713

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:

SUBJECT: MARTIN - FULBRIGHT DIALOGUE

DEPT PASS USIA

1. ITALIAN PRESS REPORTS RATHER ABUNDANTLY ON MAY 9
QUESTIONING OF AMBASSADOR MARTIN BY CHAIRMAN FULBRIGHT.
FRONT PAGE IN SOME CASES. SUMMARY BELOW.

2. LA STAMPA UNDER HEAD: " A US ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE
ROME?", REPORTS ON YESTERDAY' S US SENATE HEARING,
WHERE SEN. FULBRIGHT ASKED GRAHAM MARTIN, FORMER US
AMBASSADOR TO ITALY, WHETHER HE HAD NOT EVER SUGGESTED
THE USE OF US GOVERNMENT FUNDS TO INFLUENCE " ITALY' S
DOMESTIC POLICY." MARTIN REFUSED TO REPLY AND IN-
TENDE TO DO IT THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS .. HIS REFUSAL
TO REPLY CAUSED A NEGATIVE REACTION IN WASHINGTON
WHICH IS ALREADY UPSET BECAUSE OF WATERGATE SCANDAL
AND THE RECENT ITT CASE... " L' UNITA HEADS
" FULBRIGHT CHARGES USG WITH US INTERFERENCES IN
ITALY' S COMESTIC AFFAIRS.

PAESE SERA CARRIES STORY UNDER HEAD: " FULBRIGHTS ASKS
FOR CLARIFICATIONS. CIA FUNDS FOR THE FACTIONS OF DC
AND OF THE RIGHT?" PAPER COMMENTS: ".. GRAHAM MARTIN
... IS A DIPLOMAT AND, THEREFORE, HE IS DISCREET. HE
DOES NOT DENY THE CLANDESTINE FUNDS FOR ' SOME ITALIAN
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POLITICAL PARTIES', HE ONLY ASKED TO SPEAK BEHIND
CLOSED DOORS... SENATOR FULBRIGHT STATED THAT THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO KNOW IF THEIR GOV-
ERNMENT INTERFERES IN THE OTHERS' AFFAIRS WITH MONEY
AND SECRETLY. THE CURIOSITY OF THE US PEOPLE IS
QUITE RIGHT... WE THINK THAT THE ITALIAN PEOPLE HAVE
THE RIGHT AS WELL, NAMELY, TO KNOW THE NAMES OF THOSE
WHO ACCEPTED BRIBES AND MARTIN'S GUIDELINES YESTER-
DAY AND PROBABLY THEY STILL ACCEPT BRIBES AND GUIDE-
LINES FROM MR. VOLPE TODAY." AVANTI FRONTPAGES UNDER
HEAD: "SERIOUS US INTERFERENCES IN ITALY'S DOMESTIC
POLICY." IL TEMPO HEADS BRIEF STORY: "FULBRIGHT'S
CHARGES AGAINST AMBASSADOR MARTIN." LA NAZIONE -
US AMBASSADOR KEEPS SILENT ON THE USE OF SECRET FUNDS IN
ITALY."

3. MISSION PROPOSES TO DIRECT ANY INQUIRIES TO WASHINGTON
STATING THAT WE HAVE NO INFORMATION THIS MATTER. ONLY QUERY
SO FAR FROM HOFFMAN OF NEW YORK TIMES WHO DID NOT PRESS
FOR INFO.

4. URGENTLY REQUEST TEXTTRANSCRIPT RELEVANT PART
MARTIN- FULBRIGHT EXCHANGE AND ANY GUIDANCE.

5. WE FAIL TO UNDERSTAND WHY EMBASSY WAS NOT INFORMED ABOUT
THIS MATTER PROMPTLY. VOLPE

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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